

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Entry of this Amendment under Rule 116 is merited as it raises no new issues and requires no further search.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2, 3, and 26 is noted with appreciation.

Allowable claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base claim 1. Claim 2 and claim 3 depending therefrom should be allowed for at least the reason indicated in paragraph 7 of the Final Office Action.

Allowable claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2, except that the limitation "flat portion" of claims 1 and 2 has been replaced with "flat areas" to be consistent with the language of claim 26. Claim 26 has been further amended to recite that "each pair of adjacent said areas are unconnected and separated by at least one said protuberant portion or at least one said wall portion." This further amendment is supported by, at least, FIG. 2 of the application as filed, wherein it is disclosed that each pair of adjacent flat areas (e.g., BC and AC in attached *Exhibit B*) are unconnected and separated by at least one said protuberant portion (e.g., protuberant portion 5b separating areas B and C in *Exhibit B*) or at least one said wall portion (e.g., wall portion 5c separating areas A and C in *Exhibit B*).

The amendments to claim 26 are believed to overcome the objection manifested in paragraph 2 of the Final Office Action.

Claim 26 should be allowed for at least the reason indicated in paragraph 7 of the Final Office Action.

All other, non-allowed claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

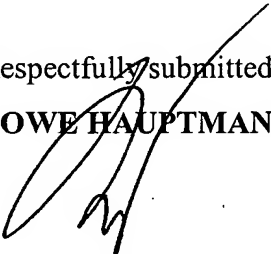
Accordingly, all claims in the present application, namely, claims 2, 3, and 26 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under *37 C.F.R. 1.136* is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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